



State of Arizona
Department of Education

Jaime A. Molera

Superintendent of
Public Instruction

June 3, 2002
CN 50-02

Dear Administrators of the School Nutrition Programs,

Since the beginning of KidsCare, schools have maintained a critical role in helping families obtain health coverage. In fact, school systems are still the primary venue for KidsCare to reach out to the communities. During the 2001-2002 school year, approximately 22,500 children have returned responses to the KidsCare survey. This is an increase of 14,500 since the 2000-2001 school year! This effort by the schools contributes significantly to the rising number of children being insured. It is clear to see you have contributed to the success of KidsCare and is the number one way that families learn about the program.

It is no secret, there are studies that prove children without health insurance tend to be ill more often and, subsequently, are absent from school more frequently than their peers that do not have health insurance. For this reason, it is essential to continue in these efforts to educate and support families in obtaining health insurance. The goal is to send the attached KidsCare form on colored paper along with the application for Free and Reduced-Price meals home with each child who attends your school. Once the forms have been completed by the household and sent back to the respective school, please forward to:

KidsCare
Mail Drop 500
920 E. Madison
Phoenix, AZ 85034
1-877-764-5437 (toll-free) OR (602) 417-5437

I highly encourage all schools to continue this partnership with KidsCare. These efforts contribute significantly to the rising number of children being insured. On behalf of the Arizona Department of Education and KidsCare, we sincerely thank you in advance for your continued support for the 2002-2003 school year.

Sincerely,

Jaime A. Molera
Superintendent of Public Instruction